1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

The women, as was mentioned above, who desire to have children, for this purpose eat spiders. Some child-bed women, that they may the sooner conceive again, eat the navel-string of the child. There are others who have as great aversion to having children, and procure abortions by different poisonous medicines, in which they are assisted by some knowing old women; but this can never be done, as it is well known, but at the hazard of their own lives. There are others, who are such unnatural wretches as to destroy their children when they are born, or throw them alive to the dogs. They use likewise several herbs and different conjurations to prevent conception. Their superstition, also, is sometimes the occasion of great barbarity; for when a woman bears twins, one of them at least must be destroyed, and so must a child born in very stormy weather; though the last can be averted by some conjurations. After the birth, the women, to recover their strength, make use of fish broth, made with an herb which they call *kale*; and then in a few days return to their ordinary diet.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of their DISEASES *and* REMEDIES.

THE principal diseases in *Kamtschatka* are the scurvy, boils, palsy, cancer, jaundice, and the venereal distemper. These diseases they think are inflicted upon them by the spirits that inhabit some particular groves, if ignorantly they happen to cut any of them down. Their principal medicines consist in charms and conjurations, but at the same time they do not neglect the use of herbs and roots. For the scurvy they use a

757 certain herb which they rub upon their gums, as alſo the leaves of the cranberry * and blackberry †. The Coſſacks cure themſelves with decoctions of the tops of cedar, and by eating wild garlick. The good effects of this medicine were felt by all the people that were in the *Kamtſchatka* expedition.

164 757 Boils are a moſt dangerous diſeaſe in *Kamtſchatka*, cauſing the death of numbers. They are very large, being often two and ſometimes three inches over; and when they break they open in about forty or fifty little holes. It is looked upon to be a very dangerous caſe, when no matter comes from theſe openings; and thoſe that recover are confined to their beds, ſometimes ſix and ſometimes ten weeks. The *Kamtſchadales* uſe raw hare-ſkins to bring the matter to a ſuppuration. The palſy, cancer, and *French* diſeaſe, are ſuppoſed to be incurable; the laſt, they ſay, was not heard of before the arrival of the *Ruſſians*. There is likewiſe another diſtemper which they call *ſuſhutch*, which is a ſort of ſcab, that ſurrounds the whole body under the ribs like a girdle. When this does not come to ſuppurate and fall off, then it is mortal, and, they ſay, every one muſt have this once in his lifetime, as we have the ſmall-pox. Mr. *Steller* gives a more ample account of their diſeaſes and remedies. He relates, that they uſe with ſucceſs the ſponge for drawing out the matter in theſe boils. The Coſſacks apply to their boils the remains of the ſweet-graſs ‖ after they have extracted their brandy, and this often ſucceſsfully reſolves them.

757 844 278 The women uſe ſea raſberries ‡ to haſten their delivery; and alſo a ſort of coral, which they make into powder like crab-eyes, in a gonorrhea. Againſt coſtiveneſs they uſe the fat of the ſea wolf; in gripes, pains of the bowels, and colds, they uſe a

* Vaccinium ramis filiformibus repentibus, foliis ovatis perennantibus.
† Impetrum. ‖ Spondylium foliolis pinnatifidis. ‡ Species fuci.

decoction

S: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

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	Men		Women	
	Average	Stand. dev.	Average	Stand. dev.
Stature	1,597 mm.	5.4	1,495 mm.	4.6
Length of head	188 mm.	6.8	153 mm.	5.7
Width of head	149 mm.	5.7	144 mm.	4.8
Cephalic index	78.9	2.9	78.5	2.7
Width of face	144 mm.	5.7	137 mm.	4.3
Cephalic facial index	96.5	3.3	94.9	3.0

141 764 172 The Kamchadal, prior to embracing Christianity, threw away their dead to be devoured by dogs, and therefore no skeletal remains were found while excavating prehistoric sites. Only in one pit on the mouth of the River Kavran were prehistoric human bones discovered, and among them were two skulls in good condition for measurement.[1] One of the skulls seemed to be that of a woman, the other of a man. The length of skulls was 177 mm. and 188 mm., the width 136 mm. and 143 mm. and consequently the indices 76.9 mm. and 77.9 mm. According to Broca 2 units may be added to the cephalic index of skulls to obtain the cephalic of the living. Adding 2 units to 76.9 and 77.9 mm. we have 78.9 mm. and 79.9 mm., figures nearly equal to averages of the cephalic index of the present-day Kamchadal.

Plate 1 shows photographs of Kamchadal men, women and young girls. Plate 2, figure 1, represents elders of some villages of the western shore of Kamchatka.

SANITARY CONDITIONS AMONG THE KAMCHADAL

164 177 836 732 The Russian conquerors have exercised a disintegrating influence on the family life of the Kamchadal. Among the Kamchadal, unchastity has been more or less common in the case of girls before marriage and of women after marriage. The Russians made liberal use of this custom and in this manner syphilis brought by them was widespread among the Kamchadal. This contagious illness resulted in different inherited diseases. In twenty-six villages of the western coast of Kamchatka, out of a population numbering 2,500, 250 people (i.e., 10 per cent) were, according to my census in 1911, cripples (blind, deaf-mute, humpbacked, lame persons and so forth); particularly were there many blind people, an average of 1 per cent, and half of the population was suffering from eye diseases. Plate 2, figure 2, shows a photograph of 11 blind men and women of the village Kharyusovo, which has 200 inhabitants; i. e., 5.5 per cent of the population are blind.

164 177 These observations refer to the year 1911 and it would be fair to relate observations of later years.

Dr. Shirokogoroff,[2] basing his statement on a recent (1919–1920) medico-statistical survey by Dr. Puxov who put his material at his disposal, says that some

[1] One skull was discovered on the Kuril Lake (see p. 62), but it was not in good condition for measurements.
[2] S. Shirokogoroff, *Northern Tungus Migrations in the Far-East*, The Journal, North China Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, vol. LVII, 1926, p. 174.

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

groups in Kamchatka after being exposed to syphilis, alcoholism, tuberculosis and other consequences of Russian influence, show a marked increase over the former number. But these general observations are not corroborated by statistical figures.

The well-known investigator of Siberia, Patkanoff,[1] has shown that the groups which had adopted a higher system of economical organization (cattle breeding, agriculture, etc.) show a marked increase in population. But these groups do not include the Kamchadal. On the other hand the latest investigators of Kamchatka, the Swedish traveler Bergman[2] and the Russian Gapanovich,[3] attest the same state of affairs as pictured by the author.[1] Only the infusion of fresh blood may save the Kamchadal from extinction. And the Kamchadal are conscious of it. I remember that some Russian adventurers coming from Vladivostok after the Russian-Japanese War were welcomed and adopted by the villagers of the western coast of Kamchatka, and the hunting rights of their territory were extended to them, provided they settle there.

[1] S. A. Patkanoff, *On the Increase of the non-Russian Population in Siberia*, published by the Imper. Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 1911 (in Russian).

[2] Sten Bergman, *Vulcane, Bären und Nomaden—Reisen und Erlebnisse im wilden Kamtschatka*, Stuttgart, 1926. Chapter: "Durch sterbende Dörfer längs der Küste des Ochotskischen Meeres," pp. 177–180. German translation from the Swedish.

[3] I. I. Gapanovich, *The Native Population of Kamchatka*, North Asia, Jour. Social Science, Moscow, 1925, No. 3, pp. 40–43 (in Russian).

1. [i.e., a decline in population due to syphilis, etc. --Analyst]

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

000 ing, and we were treated with the utmoſt hoſpitality; but we had ſcarcely entered when the rain fell in ſuch abundance, that we were obliged to ſtay longer than we wiſhed.

I eagerly embraced this ſhort interval to deſcribe ſome of the objects which I had deferred till my arrival at Bolcheretſk, where, perhaps, I may find others that will not be leſs intereſting.

361 / 164 / 133 The oſtrog of Paratounka is ſituated by the ſide of a river of that name, about two leagues from its mouth *. This village is ſcarcely

Peter and St. Paul; but this cannot take place till the projected improvements reſpecting the port are carried into execution. We cannot help obſerving, that the Engliſh have omitted to mention that there was formerly a church at St. Peter and St. Paul's, and that its ſituation is known by means of a ſort of tomb which formed a part of it.

* This river empties itſelf, as I have already ſaid, into the bay of Avatſcha. The ſhoals, which are commonly

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

361 164 133 ſcarcely more populous than that of St. Peter and St. Paul. The ſmall pox has, in this place particularly, made dreadful ravages. The number of balagans and iſbas ſeemed to be very nearly the ſame as at Petropavlofska*.

342 R 177 .34 The Kamtſchadales lodge in the firſt during ſummer, and retreat to the laſt in winter. As it is thought deſirable that

dry at low water, render its entrance impracticable; it is even difficult at high water.

* As I ſtood to examine the Kamtſchadale houſes, I frequently imagined to myſelf the diſdainful ſurpriſe that our French Sybarites would expreſs at the ſight, ſome of whom are ſo proud of their vaſt hotels, and others ſo jealous of their little neat and decorated apartments, where the art of arrangement ſcarcely falls ſhort of the refined luxury of ſuperb furniture. I conceived them to exclaim—How can human beings live in theſe miſerable huts! A Kamtſchadale however, is by no means unhappy in theſe cabins, whoſe architecture ſeem to lead us back to the firſt age of the world; he lives there with his family in tranquillity; he enjoys at leaſt the happineſs of knowing few privations, and of having therefore leſs wants, and has no objects of envious compariſon before his eyes.

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7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

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757 The ſmall pox, whoſe ravages I have already mentioned, appears not to be natural to the country, nor is it very common. Since the invaſion of the Ruſſians, and the frequent emigrations that ſucceeded it, this epidemical diſeaſe has only made its appearance in 1767 and 1768. It was then brought into the country by a Ruſſian veſſel bound to the Eaſtern iſlands, for the purpoſe of hunting otters, foxes, and other animals. The perſon, who had in his blood the fatal germ, was a ſailor from Okotſk, where he had taken remedies for the diſorder, previous to his departure; but the recent marks of it were viſible. Scarcely landed, he communicated this cruel malady to the poor Kamtſchadales, which carried off three fourths of them. As it has not appeared ſince, it is ſuppoſed that theſe people are not ſubject to it. In the year 1790 it broke out in the northern part of Kamtſchatka, but it did not ſpread ſo far as the peninſula.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

164 peninſula. It began at Anadirſkoi; it is
278 not known how it was brought there,
757 though the Ruſſians are alſo accuſed in this inſtance.

There is reaſon to ſuſpect that the Kamtſchadales are indebted to them in like manner for their knowledge of the venereal diſeaſe, which happily is not common. This peſtilence appears to be exotic, and its cure is as difficult as it is rare. They have recourſe to various roots and to corroſive ſublimate, which is attended in this country with its uſual ruinous effects, and the more ſo, as being indiſcreetly adminiſtered.

732 The Kamtſchadales have no deformed births. Such as are deformed among them, have become ſo in conſequence of a conſiderable fall, though this is not a very common occurrence, as they are accuſtomed to fall from their balagans. They are but

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

They ARE BUT
164 little ſubject to the ſcurvy; their uſe of
757 wild garlic, and various fruits and berries, is a preſervative. The Ruſſians and other ſettlers are more frequently afflicted with this diſeaſe.

Conſumptions are frequent enough; but boils, tumors, abſceſſes, and wens, are very common. They have no mode of curing them, but by inciſion or extirpation; and they uſe for theſe operations a knife, or perhaps ſimply a ſharp ſtone, which ſupplies the place of a lancet. Such inſtruments are calculated to impreſs us with no very high opinion of the ſkill of the operators; and it is obvious that the art of ſurgery, brought to ſuch perfection with us, is in a ſtate of the utmoſt barbariſm at Kamtſchatka.

178 Phyſic does not appear to have made a
756 greater progreſs; though it muſt be confeſſed

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

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had visited the greater part of the peninsula. Owing to the difficulties of communication excepting in the winter season, he had abundant time on his hands, which he had devoted with indefatigable ardour to his favourite pursuits. Geology, surveying, palæontology, photography and ornithology,—each and all had occupied his leisure hours, with results which were evidenced by the richness of his collections. None of the other Europeans knew anything of the country outside Petropaulovsky, and to him alone we were indebted for what information we could get about our projected route, as well as for many useful hints on Kamschatkan travel.

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Our intention was, if the plan were feasible, to travel northwards from Avatcha Bay until we struck the head waters of the Great Kamschatka River, where we were to procure canoes if possible, or if not to construct rafts, and by this means float down the stream to the sea. Meanwhile, the yacht was to remain in Petropaulovsky harbour for a month or six weeks, and then proceed to the mouth of the river to await our arrival. We found that Dr. Dybowski, in spite of his extensive travels in the peninsula, had not himself performed this journey, neither was he aware of any other person who had attempted it. Communication often takes place with Nischni Kamschatka—an *ostrog* near the mouth of the river—in the winter, but the sledges do not, as in Lapland, travel on the river; and though occasionally a few of the lonely settlements upon its banks are passed, the track leads for the most part by short cuts overland, and we had no means of judging the

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distances or the length of time necessary for our journey. From Dr. Dybowski, however, we were able to obtain all the information that was to be got upon the subject; and to learn that, whatever other difficulties we might have to encounter, that of an insufficient supply of food was certainly not one. His accounts of the really marvellous abundance of fish, which at the time seemed almost incredible, we were destined later to find, if anything, understated. Whether the almost exclusive fish diet of the inhabitants of the

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

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country has any connection or not with the leprosy prevalent among them, it is difficult to say. Our informant described it as being a common disease, and he must have had considerable opportunities of judging, but it is remarkable that during our journey through the country we met with but one solitary case. Scurvy was, we were told, uncommon, owing no doubt to the abundance of the wild garlic and the *sarana*—a liliaceous plant whose bulb is stored for the winter, and supplies the place of the potato. This latter vegetable has, however, become much more extensively cultivated of late years.

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It was a matter of great regret to us that our acquaintance with Dr. Dybowski should of necessity have been so limited. He was on the eve of a long journey in search of fossils to the Kuril Lake, which lies in an almost unknown region at the southern extremity of the peninsula. It was by such pursuits alone that he was able to mitigate the loneliness of what was, in reality, an exile. During the winter he travelled over the country to such isolated spots of it as are inhabited, and saw his patients. These he was supposed to supply with such medicine as would suffice for their cure, or last them, should they be incurables, until the time of his visit in the following year! It is not every parish doctor whose district is spread over the extent of one hundred thousand square miles!

During the week that was necessary for the completion of our preparations we had abundant time for the exploration of Petropaulovsky and its surroundings. The numerous harbours and lovely scenery of Avatcha Bay would take a month to become thoroughly acquainted with, and it would be hard to imagine a more charming place for the naturalist and sportsman. Possibly, when the salmon rivers of Norway have reached a prohibitory price, and the game of India and South Africa has disappeared, some adventurous individual will recommend Kamschatka as a new field for sportsmen. At present, it must be confessed, it is not very easy to get there. Every year the port is visited by a

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

133 361 484 Losing sight of the range near Melcova no more mountains are seen, and Mashura, a village of fourteen houses and eighty-eight inhabitants, has but little to recommend it in the way of scenery. Excepting at the settlements no boat is ever met with, and voyaging on the Kamschatka is regarded by the natives as an affair of some 000 moment. Our approach was accordingly heralded by numerous discharges of blank cartridge from the guns of our raftmen, and as we stepped ashore shortly after sunset we found the head-man awaiting us, together with a considerable proportion of the inhabitants. Anxious to prevent a "ring" between them and the men we had brought from Melcova, we approached the subject of canoes for our further journey as quickly as we could. But we had been anticipated, and we began to see that henceforward extortion was to be the order of the day in every case in which we were brought in contact with these people. They refused to sell us canoes, and demanded sixty roubles to take us on a distance of as many versts, —a rate which would have left us with empty pockets before we had got half way down the river. For a small birch-bark jar of milk they asked half a rouble, and charged in like proportion for other articles. In these cases, however, our line of action was simple. We took the things at once, placed them inside the tents, and paid what we considered the proper sum. They refused the money, and, when we turned in for the night without having come to any definite settlement for the following day, the relations between us had become considerably strained.

142 144 164 177 361 Mashura was, in bygone days, one of the largest Kamschatdale settlements in the centre of the peninsula, but smallpox—the disease so fatal on its first introduction among uncivilised nations—broke out in 1767, and ravaged the country to such a frightful extent that it is said to have killed nearly three-quarters of the natives, and the village has since dwindled down to its present insignificant size. The people were short, but strong-looking men, with scanty beards and straight hair, which was either light or dark, according to the preponderance of Russian or native blood. Most

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

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of them were clothed in leather breeches and the boots I have already described, with the ordinary loose blue shirt of the Russian peasant, but some had already commenced to wear the *parka*. These are not all of reindeer, which is not a common animal except among the Koriaks, but are also made of bear and dog fur, although the dogs are not grown for the purpose, as is the case in Lapland.

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If leprosy be in any way connected with a diet in which fish is one of the chief constituents, as is by some supposed to be the case, in no country in the world should it be more prevalent than in Kamschatka. Dr. Dybowski had assured me that it was very common, and had shown me photographs in which the expression of the disorder appeared identical with that unfortunately so frequent in Norway. But the only case which came under our notice was at this place, and since the sufferers do not appear to be secluded in any way, it is only fair to conclude that, in the interior of the country at least, the disease cannot be very prevalent. Syphilis is, unhappily, very general, but its effects are now far less terrible than on its first introduction.

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We paddled merrily down stream in spite of the still unsettled arguments as to the price we were to pay our men. Below Mashura the pines become more numerous, and the perpendicular mud cliffs are a characteristic feature of the river. Beneath these we found the depth of the stream to be often as much as eighteen or twenty feet, but the mean depth is probably not more than half as great. Huge piles of driftwood block the banks of every low promontory, and testify to the enormous force and volume of the stream upon the breaking up of the ice,—a phenomenon which can dimly be realised from the wonderfully graphic description of Mr. Seebohm in his "Siberia in Asia." Owing to the increased depth of the water, snags became less frequent and navigation easier; but the size of our rafts prevented us from making more than five versts an hour, a rate that our log, frequently heaved and with corrections applied for the current, told us to be fairly constant.

Hitherto we had been able with the greatest ease to shoot as

27: Sauer--307-308 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 164, 177, 622, 651 Russia
636.65

"In 1768 the small-pox carried off 5368 of the inhabitants; and since the departure of Major Behm, the court of the interior (Zemskoi Suc) has discovered, that the Kamtshadals are indebted to government the whole tribute for the unfortunate sufferers by that disorder, and lay claims at present for the debt. The natives produce receipts; but are told, that an ukase from Irkutsk claims the payment. They appointed a delegate to lay their grievances at the feet of their sovereign; he, however, only reached Irkutsk, when he was promised redress, and sent back again: he returned last year, and is the chief of Shapinski village, a very intelligent man, and, I thought, very likely to help me to [308] some information as to their former customs and religion, which are now quite abolished; nor is their language pure."

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

563 it is not so, considering how well its central situ-
361 ation is adapted for that purpose. A neat church has lately been erected at the expense of the inhabitants, who are in general disliked by the chiefs and officers, owing to their resisting the payment of individual yasack, or presents. This is surely an enhancement of their character.

563 I quitted the village of Cliuchie perfectly satisfied with the character and conduct of its inhabitants. They preserve a great tenaciousness of their rights, and detestation of the injustice shown to their neighbours, the aborigines. To prove this assertion, I need but mention that with these Cliuchie peasants, I was obliged to pay in money for the hire of the dogs which drew me; a circumstance which had happened to me no where else, and therefore carries the most undoubted proof of exactions, extortions, and cruelty exercised upon the most innocent and inoffensive peo-
132 ple in the world. My route lay from Cliuchie at first over some small lakes, and then along the banks of the Kamtchatka, which at this period of the year, 14th December, O. S. is but half frozen.
361 At twenty-five miles I reached the ostrog called
161 Krestova, having three yourtes and twenty-four in-
164 habitants, nearly all of whom are confined by disease. I continued on with the same dogs to Oushkielova, thirty miles farther, having four habitations and twenty individuals, most of whom also are debilitated: indeed it is extraordinary what

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

164 havoc the introduction of the small pox, and another distemper, made at the ostrogs on the banks
000 of the Kamtchatka. Remarkably fine and extensive meadow lands, attend the traveller all the way from Cliuchie to Kozerofsky, as well as noble forests of timber; and there are seasons when cattle might maintain themselves during the whole of the winter, the snow being then of no great depth; yet there are but few heads of these necessary animals. The scenery to the southward along the banks of the river, is also of the most picturesque and sublime appearance. The magnificent peak soaring to the clouds has a fine effect when viewed from the bed of the river.

361 Kozerofsky, forty miles beyond Oushkielova,
161 contains five dwellings and thirty-six people, and is pleasantly situated. I continued along the river Kamchatka for twelve miles, and then along that of the Tolbachinsk to an ostrog of the same name for thirty miles more. The latter part of the journey was through a crowded forest, and a thick fog, which occasioned me some serious blows, as the dogs made their rapid progress; now and then starting at the scent of a fox or sable. Tolbachinsk is a pretty little village with thirty inhabitants, and appears to be on the improvement; the establishment is a new one and almost secluded from the world. Stchappinat was the next village I came to. It is upon the Kamtchatka, at a deep and narrow part of the river which was not yet frozen

133 plane, very subject to storms and heavy falls of
132 snow. I reached the place at nine in the evening.
The inhabitants, amounting to thirty-two, live in
161 four yourtes, and are all afflicted with the disease
164 so common to the peninsula; and the contagion, and
262 want of medicine have been so great, that even the
361 children are equally afflicted, and the complaint of scrofula is become hereditary. In this part of the peninsula the chase is scarce, and the inhabitants mostly subsist upon fish, a few mountain sheep, and wild rein-deer, being the only meat they taste from one end of the year to the other. The situation is fine and highly productive in fish, but at this moment there are not a sufficiency of people to transact the ordinary business; a circumstance which calls aloud for the compassion of the chief.

133 From Ganal to Malka are thirty miles, the first
361 ten of which are over a sterile mountainous country, which is more than compensated by the succeeding richness of a valley eighteen miles in length. I crossed several times the Bistra, a rapid stream, uniting with the Bolshaya Reka, and was again obliged to become pilot, chief, and dog-master; however, I managed very well, and arrived early. Malka is deserving of little notice, yet is said to be celebrated for its baths! The situation is magnificently grand; the hospital stands in the bosom of a lofty chain of elevated mountains at two miles from the village. I was welcomed by two old acquaintances, both of whom
[of Ganal village--Analyst]

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

162 ing degree is a question I shall not answer, farther than by reminding my readers that at the discovery of Kamtchatka, we are told in the Russian history, that no less than one hundred and sixteen villages
164 were on the banks of the river Kamtchatka. The
162 small-pox, and its rival distemper, with other diseases, and above all the spirit of persecution which has been unremittingly practised towards these poor people, have been the several causes of the depopulation. Of late, however, I can with certainty say the population has not decreased; this may be owing to the benefits arising from vaccination, as well as somewhat better medical attend-
162 ants. But although population has of late kept its
563 maximum, it may be a question whether the aborigines have not decreased in the same ratio that the Russians and convicts have increased. At present there are several Yakut as well as Russian exiles, in the peninsula, neither of whom can be of much benefit; but both assisting to persecute and plunder the Kamtchatdales.

175 Of the history and origin of the Kamtchatdales little positive has ever been known; and that only for the last one hundred and thirty years. Kamtchatka is supposed to have been visited by some Russians in 1649, when one of the traveller Deshneff's vessels, was wrecked on its coast. Those Russians lived with them in peace for a considerable period of time; but quarrelling among themselves were murdered. Nothing more is known of the place

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

231 R 177 .23 ple, were they once imported upon a large scale. The dogs, like the aborigines, are on the decline, and probably twenty or thirty years more will leave nothing in Kamtchatka but the Russians and animals of the chase. When it is recollected that Kamtchatka has such magnificent and extensive meadows, and that the climate is not severe; and when it is considered with what facility government might send each year two or three hundred head of young cattle by the annual transports to Tygil, it may be naturally supposed that the different chiefs have been attending more to their personal concerns than to those of the peninsula. That the place might be made even to flourish, there can be no reasonable doubt.

651 R 177 .65 The expenses of the colony have been very great to Russia, and must continue so, as long as the present plan is persisted in. The yasack amounts to a less sum of money than the single maintenance of a chief. Five hundred heads of foxes or sables, worth six thousand roubles, or three hundred pounds, is the amount; while the expences of the colony cannot fall short of two hundred thousand roubles, or ten thousand pounds.

164 758 R 177 .75 The depopulated state of this peninsula is also to be attributed to other causes. Their continual wars and insurrections greatly thinned them, and these were followed by the introduction of the small-pox, which in the year 1768, carried off no less than six thousand persons; and twenty thousand are sup-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

posed to have fallen victims to it within a short period. Yet at this moment there is a want of vaccinating matter, nor is it a questionable assertion that the quality of medicines in the hospitals is shamefully adulterated, and the quantity small. The present worthy chief has however caused an inquiry to be made upon this subject, and the result has been transmitted to government. But it is not the small pox alone, that the arrival of the Russians introduced into this place; the distemper before alluded to has made, and continues to make, most dreadful ravages in every part of the peninsula, very few families being free from the taint, and no part of the world can show more miserable objects of its fury. The whole race indeed look like beings better qualified to extinguish than propagate the human species; nor is this surprising, considering their present state, almost without hospitals, medicines, or attendants, save that ill-managed house at Malka.

Besides these two diseases, the inhabitants of Kamtchatka are subject to all those which make havoc in countries where the people are ordinarily ill fed, ill clothed, and liable to famine. The last has frequently visited this Peninsula, more from a want of people than of food; for fish is not always to be had upon both sides of the Peninsula at the same time, and they have not the means of transporting the superabundant quantity to the opposite coast.